

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-implemented method of supplying diagnostic or treatment information, or both, to a health professional, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) creating a database of diagnosis and treatment rules;
 - (b) collecting patient-specific information;
 - (c) applying the diagnosis and treatment rules to the patient-specific information and determining suitable diagnostic or treatment information, or both;
 - (d) collecting outcome information including actual treatment and patient response information; and
 - (e) modifying the database of diagnosis and treatment rules in accordance with the outcome information.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said diagnostic or treatment information is relevant to critical or non-critical adverse medical events.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the patient-specific information comprises one, some or all of the following: age, weight, sex, medical history, recent medications, current or past surgical procedures, current vital signs, or current medical condition.
4. The method of claim 2 wherein diagnosis and treatment rules include information specific to an institution in a particular geographical location.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein the suitable diagnostic information comprises at least two different diagnoses separately ranked in order of higher probability.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the suitable treatment information comprises at least two different treatment alternatives separately ranked in order of higher likelihood of success.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the outcome information does not include information which could identify the patient, the institution or the health professional.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the outcome information is collected from more than one
5 institution or location.
9. A medical decision support system including a hospital information system including at least one user workstation, said system comprising:
- 10 (a) at least one server comprising:
- a database comprising diagnosis and treatment rules;
 - means for modifying the diagnosis and treatment rules in accordance with outcome information;
 - a database comprising patient-specific information; and
 - 15 • means for generating diagnostic or treatment options by comparing the patient-specific information to the rules database;
 - (b) a second server, which may be the same as the at least one server, comprising a database of outcome events and outcome data, and means for generating pre-defined reports and ad-hoc reports;
- 20 (c) wherein the at least one workstation comprises:
- a data interface for collecting patient-specific information and transmitting it to the server;
 - a user interface for receiving and displaying the diagnostic or treatment options; and
- 25 (d) and wherein a second workstation, which may be the same as the at least one workstation, comprises:
- an outcome interface for collecting outcome information and transmitting it to the second server; and

- a report interface for receiving and displaying reports received from the second server.

10. The medical decision support system of claim 9 wherein the data interface and user interface are provided by a first workstation and the outcome interface and report interface are
5 provided by a second workstation.
11. The medical decision support system of claim 10 wherein the at least one server and the second server are separate servers.
- 10 12. The medical decision support system of claim 11 wherein the at least one server and the at least one workstation are connected by a local area network, a wide area network, or the Internet.
13. The medical decision support system of claim 9 wherein one or more of the data
15 interface, user interface, outcome interface and report interface is a web browser.
14. The medical decision support system of claim 13 wherein the user interface comprises a touch-sensitive screen.
- 20 15. The medical decision support system of claim 9 comprising a plurality of user workstations in at least two different locations or institutions.